

Watervliet Shakers South Family Brothers'
Workshop, Building #4
South of Troy Shaker Road (State Route #155),
approximately 1/4 mile east of Sand Creek Road
Albany Vicinity (Colonie)
Albany County
New York

HABS No. NY-3241

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. NY-3241

WATERVLIET SHAKERS SOUTH FAMILY BROTHERS'
WORKSHOP, BUILDING #4

Location: South of Troy Shaker Road (State Route #155),
approximately 1/4 mile east of Sand Creek Road,
Albany Vicinity (Colonie), Albany County,
New York.

Present Owner: Leonard Bol, Shaker Road, Albany, New York.

Present Occupants: Rented by Mr. Bol to tenants.

Present Use: Dwelling.

Brief Statement
of Significance: This two-and-a-half-story brick structure is typi-
cal of Shaker construction of the 19th century.
The fact that it was a workshop and could later
be used as a dwelling, with little in the way of
major alterations, indicates how similar most
Shaker buildings were.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Physical History

- A. Original and subsequent owners: South Family of Watervliet Shakers until 1938.
Mr. Leonard Bol, 1962 to present (bought South Family property in 1939).
- B. Date of Erection. 19th century
- C. Architect: As with most articles of Shaker design or construction, Shaker structures were in general designed by an anonymous "architect."
- D. Notes on Alterations and Additions: Exterior. a modern porch added on east side about 1926.
A modern enclosed porch added on west side.
A modern porch roof added to the south side.
Interior: About 1926 Misses Lucy Lower and Caroline Fato occupied rooms in this building. Evidently a number of doors and partitions were added at this time to adapt the building for habitation. The north side of the structure was remodelled and furnished to rent, probably after 1938.

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- E. Sources of Information: Lassiter, William Lawrence. "A Catalog of Shaker Photographs and Measured Drawings in the Historic Collection of the New York State Education Department, Albany, New York." An unpublished catalog of Shaker material belonging to the University of the State of New York, Division of Archives and History, Albany, New York, 1960. (Mimeographed). See data pages for Watervliet Shakers South Family, HABS No. NY-3272, for general historical information).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: The building in general follows typical Shaker simplicity in design. Of particular note in this structure are the separate chimney flues which join in the attic to form a single exterior chimney, and the hoist well in the original buildings (now converted on the first floor to a water closet).
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: 62'-1 1/2" (east side) x 42'-0 1/2"; two-and-a-half stories.
2. Foundations: Stone and brick (from the ground line).
3. Wall construction: Brick laid in Flemish bond.
4. Porches: There is a large, enclosed porch on east side - not original; smaller, enclosed, wooden porch on west side - not original. The other porches with stairs, slate covered roofs, and side lattice work, appear to be original and probably indicate original appearance of the other porches. (Tar paper now covers the roof surfaces).
5. Chimneys: Two chimneys at the gable ridge.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Wooden, six-panel doors to first floor. Double, six-panel doors lead into the basement.
 - b. Windows: Double-hung, wooden, sash windows, twelve-over-twelve light. (Flat brick arches over each window opening).
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof (covered with slate in October 1937).
 - b. Cornice: Typical Shaker cove cornices (of wood).

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: Two separate, adjacent entry and stair halls with five workrooms of various sizes disposed around three sides of this central core. Plan conceived as two separate units.
2. Doorways and doors: Four and six-panel, wooden doors.
3. Trim: Simple Shaker wooden trim.
4. Hardware: Typical Shaker, hand-wrought hardware.
5. Heating: Two chimneys at the gable ridge. (Interior chimney flues join in the attic to form one exterior brick chimney). Shakers seldom, if ever, had fireplaces in their buildings. The rooms were heated by Shaker-made iron stoves.

- D. Site: The long axis of the Brothers' Workshop runs approximately north-south.

Prepared by John C. Poppeliers, Architectural
Historian
National Park Service
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

SHAKER SOUTH FAMILY TRUSTEES' OFFICE, BUILDING #4
(SHAKER SOUTH FAMILY BROTHERS' WORKSHOP)

HABS No. NY-3241

An addendum to the data pages compiled in 1963
Shaker South Family Trustees' Office, Building #4
Watervliet, New York

This building was originally a dwelling house, probably the second dwelling for the South Family, built in 1822. Shaker Records of the South Family mention a dwelling built in that year; "June 17, 1823, S.F. moved into new brick dwelling (built 1822)." A Shaker scrapbook, now located in Maine, also mentions this dwelling. There is mention of an earlier dwelling built in 1800, but this building does not appear to be that early. According to Jack Waite, of New York State Board of Historic Preservation, brick foundations, as used in this building, did not appear in New York as early as 1800. A photograph of this building is located in the Index of American Design (#V188) labeled as a Community House.

Information provided by: Dorothy M. Filley
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Colonie, New York
May, 1975